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when living conditions were rapidly improving and the radical industrial change was taking place. A community transformed by these altered conditions is pictured in a third chapter on "Present Times." Today the inhabitants of the region, in marked contrast to those of half a century ago, have all the comforts and conveniences possible for the modern farmer; today the district is a leading butter-producing section of the "Bread and Butter State." Specific examples of the industrial evolution of the locality, consisting of sketches of "Some of the Prairies Farms," are presented in chapter 5. Whenever possible, the author begins the history of a farm with the original acquisition of the land from the government; he then proceeds to discuss succeeding owners and their family records and to enumerate improvements on the property. The geography and geology of the region are treated in chapter 4 and in the appendix, respectively.

Mr. Arnold has based his work upon information acquired by long residence in Portland Prairie and by personal acquaintance with its inhabitants. The book is somewhat crudely printed and, since the author is "accustomed to put whole pages in type without using any written copy," it is not surprising that numerous typographical errors appear. This is a minor matter, however, compared to the service which Mr. Arnold has rendered not only to the community whose history is thus preserved, but to the cause of history in general, for the conditions and transformations which he describes in detail are typical of agricultural communities throughout the Northwest.

BERTHA L. HEILBRON

*The Story of a Minnesotan.* By LOREN WARREN COLLINS, former associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court. (N. p., n. d. 86 p. Portrait.)

This autobiographical sketch, written by Judge Collins after his retirement from the supreme bench in 1904, was found among his papers after his death in 1912 and has just been published by his sons for private circulation. It is a narrative of considerable historical interest, not so much for the few striking experiences related as for its vivid portrayal of frontier life and conditions.

The first chapter covers the author's boyhood days in Massachusetts, where he was born in 1838, and gives an account of a "Minnesota Colony" organized at Springfield in 1852, of which Judge Collins's father was a member. The next chapter tells of the family's trip to Minnesota in the winter and spring of 1854, of pioneer farming on Eden Prairie, and of the activities of a claim association. The father sold his claim in the fall of 1855 and took his family back to Massachusetts, but the Minnesota fever was too strong for him and the following year found him keeping a hotel at a boom town named Lewiston, on the Cannon River, near Northfield. The future jurist took up a claim in Goodhue County, but his "ambition to till the soil was washed out" by a terrific hail storm and cloud-burst and in 1858 he turned to school teaching. The following year he commenced the study of law at Hastings, and he was soon taking a lively interest in politics.

One chapter tells of Collins's experiences as a member of the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry in the campaign against the Sioux in 1862, of guarding the Indian prisoners after the outbreak was over, and of the hanging of the condemned Indians at Mankato, which he witnessed. Another chapter is devoted to his Civil War services, which included commanding the military police of St. Louis for several months in 1864, and campaigning in Missouri, Tennessee, and Alabama.

In May, 1866, Collins began the practice of law at St. Cloud. He tells many interesting incidents of life in this frontier community and of his political career, which started with his election as county attorney in the fall of 1866 and culminated in his appointment to the supreme court of the state in 1887. The famous contest between him and Robert C. Dunn for the Republican nomination for governor is treated only briefly.

To the student of history Judge Collins's autobiography is more valuable than most reminiscent narratives. In preparing it he evidently did not rely wholly on his memory but consulted letters and diaries and in some cases even searched through archives and newspaper files in the endeavor to secure all available information. The book is a distinct contribution to Minnesota history.

SOLON J. BUCK